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Description of document: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) records re: Vice President Dick Cheney Interview on Leak of Valerie Plame's Identity, 2004

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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

July 3, 2012

FOIPA Request No.: 1135045- 001
Subject: DICK CHENEY INTERVIEW ON
LEAK OF VALERIE PLAME'S IDENTITY

Records responsive to your request were previously processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Enclosed are 67 pages of previously-processed documents and a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001. Your appeal must be received by OIP within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be identified easily.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", followed by a stylized flourish.

David M. Hardy
Section Chief,
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute(A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could be reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could be reasonably expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

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DATE: 10-28-2009
CLASSIFIED BY 65179 DMH/sab
REASON: 1.4 (c)
DECLASSIFY ON: 10-28-2034

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription: 05/08/2004

(U) RICHARD B. CHENEY, Vice President of the United States, Date of Birth: 1/30/41, [SSAN:] was interviewed in his office at the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald, Department of Justice, also participated in the interview. Vice President Cheney was represented by Terrence O'Donnell and Emmet T. Flood of the law firm of Williams and Connolly, 725 12th Street, NW, Washington, DC. Vice President Cheney was familiar with the nature of the investigation and provided the following information:

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(U) At the outset of the interview, the Vice President advised that, like all employees in the White House, he had been directed by the President to cooperate in the Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation of the matter involving the alleged leak of classified information to newspaper columnist Robert Novak. Vice President Cheney advised that he would cooperate with the investigation and provide as much information as he could, consistent with the President's directive. However, the Vice President added that any matters which might arise during the course of the interview which, in his judgment, fall outside of the scope of the investigation may require him to exercise a privilege not to answer certain questions, particularly those that relate to private conversations he may have had with the President. In those situations, the Vice President advised that he would consult with David Addington, Counsel to the Office of the Vice President (CVP), who would be waiting nearby for consultation in the event any such instances arise. Special Counsel Fitzgerald suggested that the interview proceed and the parties could address any potential issues when, and if, they arose.

(U) The Vice President advised that he has no idea who may have made the unauthorized disclosure to newspaper columnist Robert Novak of information identifying Valerie Wilson, the wife of former Ambassador Joe Wilson, as a CIA employee. He does not know of any other reporters who may have been provided this information before July 14, 2003. While he assumed people talked about the issue with the press after the article appeared, he did not know of anyone who had told him of any discussions on that issue with reporters even after July 14, 2003. No one has ever told him that they talked to any other reporters and provided the information to

Investigation on 5/8/04 at Washington, D.C.

File #

Date dictated 5/8/04

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them about Mrs. Wilson's employment. Furthermore, he has no personal knowledge of anyone having provided this information to Robert Novak, or any other reporter, and he has never been advised by anyone to that effect.

- (U) ~~(S)~~ The Vice President advised that he first learned about former Ambassador Joseph Wilson when news reports surfaced in approximately May and June 2003 about an unnamed ex-envoy who had traveled to Niger to investigate intelligence reports that the Government of Iraq had attempted to purchase yellowcake uranium from Niger. In fact, when the Vice President first heard of this trip, he did not know the actual identity of the ex-envoy, but only became aware of his identity at some point later in time. He also recalled that early media reports had suggested that the Ambassador had been sent on the fact-finding mission at the request of the OVP, which was news to the Vice President because he was not aware of such a trip. The Vice President advised he recalled making an initial inquiry for intelligence about the alleged transaction, or efforts by the Iraqis to purchase the uranium from Niger, during a CIA briefing in February 2002, when it was brought to his attention that

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~~(S)~~ had made such an assertion. He believed that the very first time he had heard the information about the ex-envoy's trip was from a New York Times column written by Nicholas Kristof in approximately May 2003.

- (U) ~~(S)~~ The Vice President could not recall whether the Wilson trip was discussed during any of the visits he made to the CIA with his Chief of Staff I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby when they met with intelligence analysts to discuss various issues such as weapons of mass destruction, China or other matters. These issues usually were discussed as part of a prepared agenda. He said it is possible that the trip by Wilson may have been discussed, but he could not specifically remember. He also advised that he could not recall whether or not he and Libby made a visit to the CIA in March 2003, nor could he recall an appearance by former Ambassador Wilson on CNN in March 2003. The Vice President could not remember any reaction he had to the Kristof article at the time it was published.

(U) He also remembered Washington Post reporter Walter Pincus wrote a similar article, subsequent to the Kristof column, about an ex-envoy's trip to Niger, making the same assertion, namely that the Vice President had signed off on Wilson's mission to Niger. In preparation for that article, Pincus may have called

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the OVP making inquiries about the role of the Vice President, but Pincus would not have spoken directly with the Vice President. The Vice President does not, as a matter of practice, speak directly to journalists, but allows OVP staff members to respond to media inquiries. He does occasionally appear on television talk shows, but that is the extent of his interactions with journalists.

(U) ~~(S)~~ The Vice President also had no recollection of discussing this matter at a meeting on 6/10/03 he attended with Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) George Tenet and CIA Counter Proliferation Division Manager [REDACTED]

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(U) ~~(S)~~ When asked about the Administrations efforts to research Wilsons mission, the Vice President advised that around the time of the initial media reports, exact date not recalled, he spoke to DCI Tenet directly on the secure telephone line [REDACTED] from his office [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Vice President advised that [REDACTED] line from his office enables him to make a direct connection to various individuals in the national security apparatus, including the Secretaries of Defense, State, and CIA Director Tenet. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Vice President Cheney believed that all of this discussion occurred during a single telephone conversation that he had with DCI Tenet. The Vice President described the tone of his conversation with DCI Tenet as cordial, however, he had a sense that the DCI was defensive and embarrassed about the issue and had not known what was going on with regards to this mission. The Vice President based this latter assertion on the tone and temperament used by the DCI in the conversation, which was uncharacteristic for Tenet.

(U) The Vice President cannot recall if he mentioned the content of his conversation with DCI Tenet to Libby, but he stated that if he would have shared it with anyone, it would have been Libby. He probably would not have shared this information with Cathie Martin or anyone else from the OVP staff.

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(U) The Vice President has no recollection of reading or hearing about a Kristof article published 6/13/03 about the ex-envoy's trip, nor does he recall an article about it in the New Republic magazine dated 6/19/03. With respect to any press inquiries about the trip that may have been made by Walter Pincus in preparation for his June 2003 article, the Vice President said any such inquiries would have gone to either Libby or Cathie Martin. However, he does not know the specifics of any inquiries which were made by Pincus.

(U) He first became aware of Joe Wilson's editorial in the New York Times on either 7/6/03, the day it was published, either by personally reading it in Wyoming, or during the return flight to Washington. The Vice President explained that he had traveled to Jackson Hole, Wyoming for the holiday weekend and cannot recall if he read the New York Times editorial when he was on the ground in Wyoming, or returning on the flight to Washington on 7/6/03, or when he got back to Washington, in which case he may not have read the editorial until the next day. Vice President Cheney explained that he has a subscription to the New York Times in Wyoming, but the newspaper is sometimes delivered late and it may not have arrived in time for his departure. He did not see Joseph Wilson's appearance on Meet the Press on television that Sunday, 7/6/03.

(U) ~~(S)~~ His initial reaction to the Wilson article was his sense that it was "amateur hour" out at the CIA. According to the article, Wilson claimed that he'd been sent on assignment by the CIA, directly implying it was done at the request of the Vice President. Moreover, Wilson's fact-finding mission did not appear to be up to professional trade-craft standards inasmuch as Wilson did not review the relevant documents, did not execute a confidentiality requirement, and he apparently returned without filing a written report of his findings. In fact, the Vice President stated that he'd learned more details about Wilson's trip and its purpose from the New York Times than he'd been able to get from the CIA. Vice President Cheney said Wilson's July 6 article was disturbing, in part because it referred to information arising out of confidential meetings with his daily briefers. He was most disturbed because of the false implication of the OVP's role in the trip, especially since all he knew about the matter was that he'd made a legitimate inquiry of a CIA briefer regarding Niger and Iraq in February 2002, and it was now being made to look as if he'd personally sent Wilson on the trip.

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(U) The Vice President is relatively certain he spoke to someone about the article, but he cannot recall exactly who it was. He remembered that there were a number of other matters going on that week, particularly the controversy over the "16 words" in the President's State of the Union (SOTU) address, and assertions made in the British White Paper in the Fall of 2002, about Iraq's efforts to purchase yellowcake uranium. He recalled the week culminated with DCI Tenet's statement released to the media on Friday, July 11th regarding the SOTU controversy. DCI Tenet's statement knocked down some of the claims made by Wilson about his trip, including the assertion that the Vice President had sent him.

(U) Returning to the 7/6/03 New York Times editorial by Wilson, the Vice President recalled that he tore it out of the newspaper. When shown a copy of the Wilson editorial with handwritten notes on it, the Vice President acknowledged that the handwriting was his. Though he has no specific recollection of when he wrote the notes on the upper margin of the editorial, the Vice President believed it was probably contemporaneous with the time he read the editorial. He stated that it was his normal practice to make such notes and underline relevant or important portions of news articles at the same time he read them, so he suspects that was the case with this article.

(U) ~~(S)~~ During the interview, the Vice President read aloud those underlined portions of the Wilson editorial, OVP Bates Stamp Number 1595, and discussed certain parts. For example, he had underlined and read aloud that part of the Wilson editorial that stated, "...it would be exceedingly difficult for Niger to transfer uranium to Iraq." In discussing this portion of the editorial, the Vice President stated that such a transfer had already happened once before. Therefore, although what Wilson was saying might be accurate, i.e. that such a transfer would be difficult, it did not mean that it could not occur. He said he was struck by the thought as he read the Wilson editorial that this attempt by Wilson and the CIA to investigate the intelligence re Iraq and Niger was not really a serious enterprise. Once again, the Vice President cited as an example the underlined portion of the article wherein former Ambassador Wilson wrote that, "... I have every confidence that the answer I provided was circulated to the appropriate officials within our government." The Vice President stated that had not happened so he questioned again the "seriousness" of this effort by Wilson and the CIA.

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(U) The Vice President also read aloud the handwritten notes he had made in the upper margin of the editorial. He commented that his notation reading, "Or did his wife send him on a junket?" was written as he recalled the earlier statement made to him by DCI Tenet that the ex-envoy's wife worked in the Unit that sent him. Vice President Cheney also noted that he thought it was strange that Joe Wilson did his investigative work pro bono.

(U) Regarding the editorial which he cut out of the paper, Vice President Cheney advised that it was his normal practice to carry such documents around with him for a few days and then place them in his "out" box when he was finished with them. He cannot recall if he discussed the underlined portions of the editorial with anyone, but he probably did. After he placed the article in his "out" box, he does not know whatever happened to it, nor did he ask for any specific treatment or follow-up with respect to his handwritten questions on the newspaper.

(U) The Vice President advised that between the time of the publication of the Wilson editorial on July 6, 2003, and the publication of the Novak editorial eight days later, he does not recall having any discussions about Wilson's wife or Wilson's trip with either DCI George Tenet or Deputy DCI John McLaughlin. He does recall at one point "gigging" Tenet and/or McLaughlin about vetting a separate, unrelated intelligence matter by sarcastically suggesting to them that perhaps they ought to send Joe Wilson to check it out. The Vice President stated that the issue of Valerie Wilson's possible involvement in sending her husband to Niger was just not a big deal and did not become one until after the publication of the Novak editorial.

(U) ~~IS~~ However, with respect to inquiries of the CIA, the Vice President does recall at some point in time [redacted]

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(S) [redacted] He began by explaining that in addition to [redacted] documents located in his briefing binder, [redacted]

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[redacted] He stated that he was not sure of the identity of his briefer at the time, but he believed Dave Terry had left the position [redacted] so the briefer involved would have probably been either [redacted] or Craig Schmall.

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(U) ~~(S)~~ In order to clarify this matter and to refresh the Vice President's recollection, he was shown a series of three sets of documents which had been sent via fax to his office on 6/9/03, OVP Bates Stamp numbers 1445 through 1465 for set #1. The Vice President initially did not recognize the documents which contained as a cover sheet a memorandum dated 6/9/03 from John Hannah, the subject of which was Information: CIA Paper on Purported Iraq-Niger Uranium Deal. The Vice President advised that he did not specifically recognize the documents so he spent several minutes perusing them. The Vice President then made several comments about the documents, including the fact that the documents confirmed that he had asked questions about the purported Iraq/Niger uranium deal at a briefing in February 2002; the information from [redacted]

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[redacted] lacked detail, and the [redacted] had determined that some of the documents which had been provided to the [redacted] were forgeries. The Vice President speculated that may have been the reason he asked for the compilation of documents related to the issue.

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(U) ~~(S)~~ The Vice President was asked specifically about the document with OVP Bates Stamp Number 1450, entitled "Purported Iraqi attempt to get Uranium from Niger." The Vice President advised he could not recall reading or seeing this particular document. In reviewing it, the Vice President specifically commented on paragraphs numbered three and six. He stated that the third paragraph relates to [redacted] reports regarding Iraq and Niger. With respect to the sixth paragraph, the Vice President related that this paragraph concerned the written report and debriefing of Joe Wilson after his return from Niger. The Vice President was then asked to review the page of the same document containing OVP Bates Stamp number 1456 which contained the hand printed notation, "Did CIA have it in their document?" The Vice President advised he did not recognize the printing.

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(U) ~~(S)~~ The Vice President was then provided with a set of documents bearing OVP Bates Stamp numbers 1472 through 1481. The Vice President commented that this set was basically a reformatting of the document he had previously reviewed "Purported Iraqi attempt to get uranium from Niger." The Vice President was directed to OVP Bates Stamp number 1475, a document which contained the same paragraph number 6 as the previous document. This particular document contained underlining of certain portions of the paragraph and an asterisk in the left hand margin. The Vice President

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advised that he did not complete the underlining and the asterisk, nor does he have any idea who may have done so.

(U) ~~(S)~~ The Vice President was then shown a two page document dated March 8, 2002 bearing OVP Bates Stamp numbers 1552 and 1553. The Vice President reviewed it and advised he recognized it as the Wilson debrief document. The Vice President advised that he first saw this document more than one year after it was written, recalling that was around the time the Wilson story began developing in the summer of 2003, either in May, June, or July. The Vice President recognized his handwriting of the word "Wilson" at the top right hand side of the document. The Vice President also believed he underlined that portion of paragraph two because he believed it raised a "red flag," seeming to show that the former Niger Prime Minister Mayaki had been approached about commercial relations with Iraq which the former Prime Minister believed meant yellowcake uranium sales. The Vice President could not recall if he read this document prior to the publication of Joseph Wilson's editorial on 7/6/03 in the New York Times.

(U) ~~(S)~~ The Vice President was then shown a two page document containing OVP Bates Stamp Numbers 1588 and 1590. The Vice President was advised that OVP Bates Stamp number 1589 was missing and apparently may have not been included with the original production. The Vice President advised that he believed that this document also was a reformatting of the document he had previously reviewed, namely the Wilson "debrief." The Vice President advised that it looks like his handwriting of the name "Joe Wilson" at the top of this document. He has no idea why he received the document in a different format from the previous one, indicating its possible the other one may have been lost.

(U) ~~(S)~~ Finally, the Vice President was shown a set of documents bearing OVP Bates Stamp numbers 1781 through 1790. The Vice President remarked that this was another copy of the document containing numbered paragraphs that he had previously reviewed. The Vice President was directed to OVP Bates Stamp number 1784, which contained that part of the document marked paragraph six. The Vice President noted that "Joe Wilson" was printed in the margin to the left of the paragraph while a handwritten notation which may have said "Wilson" was just below it. The Vice President advised that neither the printed portion or the handwritten portion was done by him. The Vice President advised that it was possible that the handwritten portion containing the word "Wilson" may have

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been written by Scooter Libby, but the Vice President did not believe the printed notation was done by Scooter.

(U) ~~(S)~~ The Vice President advised that he believed the documents discussed above represent the CIA's attempt [redacted]

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(S) [redacted] as well as requests by Congress and the [redacted] As mentioned above, the Vice President could not recall specifically when this was completed, but he believes it may have been after Wilson's trip to Niger became public and questions were raised about the Vice President's involvement in sending Wilson on the trip. He also recalled that he believes the CIA report produced from a debriefing of former Ambassador Wilson after he returned from Niger was the only document produced which reported the results of Wilson's trip. And although there was allegedly "wide dissemination" of this document in the intelligence community, the Vice President had never read it at the time it was purportedly widely disseminated.

(U) Because of the intense interest in Wilson's trip after his 7/6/03 editorial was published, the Vice President speculated that may have been the period when he saw this report for the first time. He characterized the earlier media interest at the time of the Pincus and Kristof articles as less intense. However, because there was so much developing controversy at the time, including the "16 words" issue, which was related to the Wilson episode to some extent, he was not certain when he reviewed this report.

(U) The Vice President reiterated that he does not take incoming calls from the media. Routine press inquiries would have gone to Cathie Martin, while some of those involving more substantive matters, particularly in the area of intelligence and national security, would have likely been handled by Scooter Libby. He provided press guidance to both of them at times and, though he can't recall any specific advice he gave in the May/June 2003 time frame, he generally would have advised them of the following points regarding the Wilson trip to Niger:

1. He made legitimate intelligence inquiries about alleged Iraq/Niger uranium transactions.
2. He did not select or send former Ambassador Wilson on the fact-finding mission to Niger.

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3. He had never been briefed on the proposed trip, nor was he briefed after former Ambassador Wilson returned from Niger.

4. The findings and written report of the trip were not provided to him until after the Wilson trip became public in 2003.

(U) Regarding the controversy over the "16 words" in the SOTU, the Vice President advised that in his mind he could not draw a distinction between the inquiries on the issue before the publication of the Wilson editorial and after the publication of the Wilson editorial.

(U) ~~(S)~~ The Vice President was then provided a series of classified documents marked with OVP Bates Stamp Numbers 129 through 191, but did not include all sequentially numbered documents in between. These documents were CIA cables related to former Ambassador Wilson's trip to Niger. The Vice President was asked specifically about those documents with Bates Stamp numbers 147-48, 162, and 165. The Vice President advised he did not recognize any of the CIA documents or recall having seen any of them before.

(U) Vice President Cheney was then asked if he discussed Ambassador Wilson or Valerie Wilson with specific White House staff. Regarding whether or not he discussed either of the Wilsons with Eric Edelman, current Ambassador to Turkey, the Vice President advised that if Edelman was, at the time, involved in the operations of the National Security Council under Scooter Libby, it was possible he discussed the Wilsons with Edelman, but he was unsure about whether Edelman was still in Washington. In any event, he has no specific recollection of any such discussion. The Vice President said the same would be true for Neil Patel, a White House staffer who, because of his job, might have been involved in such a discussion, though the Vice President had no specific recollection of any discussion with Patel. Vice President Cheney can recall no other discussions regarding the Wilsons with either DCI Tenet or DDCI McLaughlin except for the previously mentioned [] telephone conversation, and the occasion when he gassed Tenet over Joe Wilson's assistance. Finally, he does not recall having a conversation with the President about the Wilsons.

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(U) By contrast, the Vice President advised that White House employee Dean McGrath was more involved in the administrative aspects of the Council so he probably did not discuss the Wilsons with him. The Vice President also advised that NSC staffer John

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Hannah was primarily involved in issues relating to the Middle East, which included Iraq and weapons of mass destruction. However, Vice President Cheney believed it was possible he might have discussed the Wilsons with Hannah, but he did not think it was likely.

(U) Regarding his press secretary Cathie Martin, the Vice President was sure he had discussed Joe Wilson with her but he had no recollection of ever discussing Valerie Wilson with her. He has no recollection of Cathie Martin entering his office at some point while Scooter Libby was present and advising both of them that Joseph Wilson's wife was employed by the CIA. He also has no recollection of learning of an episode when the CIA apparently was upset that NBC News reporter Andrea Mitchell and CBS reporter David Martin had publicly reported on a conflict between the White House and the CIA relative to the SOTU "16 words." It was reported that the CIA was being blamed by White House staffers for the mistake and that Steven Hadley of the NSC had criticized Cathie Martin for the tension that surfaced between the CIA and the White House over the report. The Vice President advised he was not aware of that tension, but he was aware of a struggle between the White House and the CIA while they were both working to disseminate George Tenet's explanation of the "16 words" controversy.

(U) Regarding Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, the Vice President advised that he did not ever discuss either Joseph Wilson or Wilsons wife with either of them. The Vice President stated that the identity of Valerie Wilson and her employment was not high on his radar screen and her employment with the CIA and relationship with Joe Wilson did not figure prominently in his thinking.

(U) The Vice President advised that it was probable that he discussed Joe Wilson at some point with National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, but he had no recollection of discussing Valerie Wilson at all with her. He advised his thoughts were the same regarding Presidential Chief of Staff Andrew Card - he probably would have discussed Joe Wilson with Card, but not Valerie Wilson. He said the same held true for Presidential Advisor Karl Rove - he probably discussed Joe Wilson with Rove, but would not have discussed Valerie Wilson with him.

(U) The Vice President went on to explain his reason for believing he possibly discussed Joe Wilson with the latter three individuals. The Vice President stated that after he receives his

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7:00 a.m. briefing at his residence from the CIA briefer, he travels to the White House where he joins the President for a daily CIA briefing which the President receives from either DCI Tenet or DDCI McLaughlin. Chief of Staff Card and Dr. Rice are also present for these briefings, along with a Presidential briefer from the CIA. Normally, when the CIA's briefing is completed, the four, who are sometimes joined after the briefing by Mr. Rove, will discuss a wide range of topics. At some point in time, after the Wilson issue had become public, the Vice President recalls 

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The Vice President said he could not recall exactly when he had this discussion and who was present for it, but it may have been at one of the morning meetings. He said that it was possible he had the discussion with the President prior to the publication of Wilson's editorial on 7/6/03, but it probably occurred afterwards. It may have occurred early on Monday, 7/7/03 although he stated that he would not have discussed it with the President on Sunday, 7/6/03, the day when he returned to Washington from Wyoming. Additionally, the Vice President had no recollection of discussing Wilson's wife at any time with the President.

(U) Asked about any possible discussions of either of the Wilsons with three high-ranking Department of State employees - Secretary of State Colin Powell, Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, or Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Marc Grossman - the Vice President advised that he did not discuss either Wilson or Wilson's wife with any of the three men. He is also unaware of any of his staffers having discussed the Wilsons with Grossman, nor have any of the staffers told him about having any such discussion.

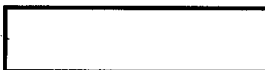
(U) Thereafter, the Vice President advised that he did not discuss either of the Wilsons with Bush-Cheney campaign Manager Ken Mehlman. In response to this question, Vice President Cheney asked, Why would I talk to Mehlman about that? However, he stated that it was possible he or Scooter Libby had discussed the Wilsons with his former press secretary, Mary Matalin. The Vice President advised that after Ms. Matalin left her full-time position with the White House, he continued to consult with her on a variety of issues and it was not uncommon for him to reach out to her for advice. He would normally consult with her prior to television appearances, particularly the talk shows, such as "Meet the Press." He has no specific recollection of discussing Wilson or Wilson's wife with Matalin, but he said it was possible.

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(U) The Vice President advised that he is unaware of anyone in the administration conducting any research or completing a research project on either Joe Wilson or his wife. He advised that he never directed anyone on his staff to conduct such a project and no one advised him they were working on one.

(U) Regarding his relationship with columnist Robert Novak, the Vice President advised that he has known Novak for a number of years. In fact, the Vice President stated that Novak had come to Washington even before the Vice President, which was quite a number of years ago. The Vice President also knew Novak's late partner, Rowland Evans. However, despite the fact that the Vice President has known Novak for a long time, he does not have a great deal of contact with him. Vice President Cheney reiterated that he does not have routine contact with members of the press who make inquiries of the Office of the Vice President - he leaves that job to the staff. Therefore, he would not be taking telephone calls from Novak. He recalled being interviewed by Novak during the post-election transition period because Novak predicted, correctly in hindsight, that the administration was making a mistake in naming Paul O'Neill as Secretary of the Treasury. He has done several interviews on Novak's television show. He has never discussed Wilson or Wilson's wife with Novak and he has never heard Novak speak to anyone about either of the Wilsons.

(U) The Vice President advised that he assumes he discussed Joseph Wilson with Scooter Libby when the issue of Wilson's trip to Niger first surfaced in the media. He does not recall discussing Valerie Wilson with Libby prior to her name appearing in Novak's column on 7/14/03. Scooter Libby never advised him of any conversation he had with Marc Grossman from the State Department about Joe Wilson and/or Wilson's wife. Libby also never told him about any conversation he had with former White House press secretary Ari Fleischer about the Wilsons. The Vice President advised that it would have been logical for Libby to brief the White House Press Office if inquiries about Wilson were being made to the OVP. He is not aware of any lunch meetings or discussions between Ari Fleischer and Scooter Libby, but it would not surprise him if they had been to lunch together at some time during Fleischer's White House tenure.

(U) The Vice President advised that he had not made any inquiries about a contractual arrangement which might have existed between former Ambassador Wilson and the CIA. He stated that it's

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possible someone else might have made such an inquiry, but he is not aware of any such request.

(U) Vice President Cheney advised he was aware, prior to the unauthorized disclosure of Valerie Wilson's identity in Robert Novak's newspaper editorial on 7/14/03, that Scooter Libby was speaking to reporters about Joseph Wilson and his trip to Niger. He stated that Libby was not required to clear every public statement and press contact because the Vice President had confidence in Libby's abilities and experience in handling such inquiries. However, the Vice President was generally aware of Libby's contacts with Walter Pincus of the Washington Post but not aware of any other specific reporters with whom Libby had contact. Asked specifically about whether there was a media strategy developed within the OVP to counter the unfair implications raised by Wilson, the Vice President made it clear that the White House and the OVP were not trying to affirmatively generate coverage on this issue, but were merely responding to media inquiries.

(U) The Vice President is not aware of any contacts Scooter Libby may have had with Robert Novak prior to the publication of the Novak newspaper column on 7/14/03. If Libby had such contacts, he did not tell the Vice President about them. The Vice President was not advised by Libby that Novak had asked for an outline of the chronology of how the SOTU was prepared.

(U) The Vice President advised that he believed he had always been the subject of unfavorable press coverage by NBC News reporter Chris Matthews, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The Vice President did not recall [Matthews'] coverage of the Joe Wilson matter in the week following the publication of Wilson's editorial on 7/6/03 as being a particular problem, but he acknowledged that it was possible. The Vice President advised that he was not aware of any attempts by Libby to complain to NBC's Washington Bureau chief Tim Russert about Chris Matthews' coverage and Libby did not discuss any such plan with the Vice President. When asked if he had been told of any conversation that Scooter Libby may have had with [Tim Russert] Vice President Cheney said it was possible, but that he could not recall. He repeated that he had no specific recollection of any reporters being talked to by Scooter Libby prior to July 14. Finally, the Vice President was not aware of any discussions which Scooter Libby may have had with Karl Rove about Joe Wilson or Wilson's wife, and Libby did not tell him of any such discussions.

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(U) Regarding the Presidential trip to Africa beginning on 7/7/03 and ending on 7/12/03, the Vice President did not recall discussing Joe Wilson with anyone traveling with the President on Air Force One or while the entourage was in Africa. The Vice President does recall talking to Dr. Rice about the CIA statement being prepared by George Tenet, which was eventually released on 7/11/03. He recalls that the Tenet statement addressed the Wilson controversy in several respects, to include rebutting several assertions made by Wilson about the Vice President. The Vice President recalls DCI Tenet's statement admitting the CIA unilaterally decided to send Wilson to Niger to check the Iraqi/Niger uranium allegation, and the Vice President had nothing to do with that decision. Additionally, DCI Tenet's statement indicated that neither the President nor Vice President had been briefed on the findings of Wilson's trip, as Wilson asserted.

(U) The Vice President cannot recall any specific discussion with Dr. Rice about Joe Wilson or Wilson's wife. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] He believes that the only person he spoke with on the telephone on Air Force One or in Africa during the Presidential trip was Dr. Rice. He does not recall talking to the President during the Africa trip.

(U) ~~(S)~~ Regarding DCI Tenet's statement of 7/11/03, the Vice President stated that to the best of his recollection, he did not believe the CIA statement went as far as it could have in clarifying the "16 words" controversy. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The Vice President recalled that components of the NIE, and some of the findings of the Wilson mission, and cables relating to it, were declassified and included in the statement, even though the actual NIE was not declassified.

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(U) The Vice President advised that it was conceivable that he may have had discussions about Joe Wilson during the week of 7/6/03 because the Tenet statement covered the bulk of the Wilson matter, namely that the CIA had dispatched Wilson to Niger on its own without direction from the Vice President; Wilson's report confirmed there had been an approach by Iraq to Niger at one time; and the results of Wilson's trip were not briefed to the Vice President.

(U)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] a statement Dr. Rice made to the press sometime shortly after the publication of the Wilson editorial wherein she had said it had been a "mistake" to include the "16 words" about the Iraqi efforts to acquire uranium in the Presidents SOTU. The Vice President acknowledged that Ari Fleischer may have made a similar acknowledgment in a press "gaggle" he held the day after Wilson's editorial was published.

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(U) ~~(S)~~ Vice President Cheney advised that he normally receives a daily briefing from the CIA at the Vice Presidential residence beginning at 7:00 a.m. Following that briefing, he joins the President in the Oval Office for an 8:00 a.m. briefing.

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Per OGA

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[REDACTED] Scooter Libby normally plans to

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sit in on the briefings with him at the Vice-Presidential residence, but often cannot make it due to conflicts. They receive separate briefings on Saturdays.

(U) (S) On Saturday, 7/12/03, the Vice President recalled making the trip to Norfolk, Virginia for the commissioning ceremony for the USS Ronald Reagan. He does not remember anything in particular about the CIA briefing he received at the Vice-Presidential residence that day. The Vice President was given a series of documents to review, including several from the briefing that day. With respect to the CIA briefing document marked with OVP Bates Stamp number 1537, the Vice President acknowledged that it was his handwriting of the name "Wilson" in the margin and on the face of the document. He noticed after further review of the document that it was similar to the previous document he had seen regarding Wilson's trip to Africa, but it was in a slightly different format. He noted that the paragraph which is numbered six of the document referred to the report made of Wilson's trip by the CIA Reports Officer who debriefed Joe Wilson upon his return from Niger. The Vice President advised that a review of the document did not successfully refresh his recollection about the CIA briefing on the morning of 7/12/03. He stated that the document in question did not appear to be [redacted] but looked like a type of document he may have kept. He has no specific memory of this document, and recalls no reason why he kept it.

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Per OGA

(U) (S) The Vice President looked at documents bearing OVP Bates Stamp numbers 1538 and 1539. It is possible that he may have received one of the two documents, or even the previously-described one from Scooter Libby, but he has no specific recollection of having obtained either one of them from him.

(U) The Vice President advised that he very clearly remembered the trip to Norfolk on 7/12/03 for the commissioning of the USS Ronald Reagan. He looked forward to making the trip for some time and was actually pleased that the President had declined the opportunity to commission the ship. He was particularly looking forward to spending time with former First Lady Nancy Reagan and some of his old friends from Yale University. He recalled that his wife and several members of his family made the trip on Air Force Two with him for the ceremony. Initially, he could not remember that Scooter Libby attended the ceremony with members of his family, but did seem to recall that fact when he was advised that it was [redacted] and he was attending with his father.

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(U) The Vice President advised that after Air Force Two arrived in Norfolk on the morning of 7/12/03, he believed that he and his wife went to the Admiral's house for breakfast where he met with Nancy Reagan. After spending time and visiting with her, the group went to the aircraft carrier for the commissioning ceremony which took place on board the ship. He recalled spending several hours at the ceremony and he also remembers the helicopter ride back to Air Force Two for the short flight back to Washington.

(U) The Vice President advised that it was possible while on the return flight, that he and Scooter Libby discussed media responses to inquiries regarding Joe Wilson's charges about the use of flawed intelligence. Though he cannot recall any specific conversation, he would not be surprised to learn that he had such a discussion with his Chief of Staff. The Vice President advised that he sees Libby several times each day and the two have previously discussed communication strategies for responding to questions from particular reporters.

(U) Vice President Cheney is familiar with Glenn Kessler, a reporter from the Washington Post, but he is not familiar with Matthew Cooper, who was identified as a reporter from Time Magazine. In handling press inquiries regarding Joe Wilson, it is conceivable that he tasked Scooter Libby with this responsibility rather than OVP press secretary Cathie Martin. As he mentioned earlier, Martin handled routine press inquiries, while Scooter's experience dictates that he assist with those press questions pertaining more explicitly to foreign policy and national security. He stated that Martin was good in getting things done and following through but she did not have Libby's experience in certain policy areas. Therefore, Libby was the more appropriate person to answer those inquiries.

(U) The Vice President said he does not recall specifically, but it would be possible he discussed the Wilson talking points with Libby aboard Air Force Two on 7/12/03. Because DCI Tenet's CIA statement had been released the previous evening, Vice President Cheney would have expected there to be press inquiries about it the following day. He stated that he might have dictated to Libby certain logical responses to the press inquiries which may have been made regarding DCI Tenet's statement. He stated that he does not recall Joe Wilson's wife or her affiliation with the CIA ever being a part of any media talking points about Wilson's trip to Niger because her employment was not an issue. He

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cannot recall if he and Scooter Libby talked about Valerie Wilsons CIA position as a data point.

(U) The Vice President advised he has no idea what Scooter Libby knew about Valerie Wilson on 7/12/03. He does not recall if he told Scooter Libby about Mrs. Wilson and her employment at the CIA, or if Libby revealed to the Vice President his independent knowledge about that fact. The Vice President repeated that he believed he first heard about Joe Wilson's wife's employment in the telephone conversation he had with DCI Tenet. He did not recall hearing anything else about her until the Novak column was written on 7/14/03. He stated that he had made the handwritten notation about Wilsons wife on the Sunday New York Times newspaper from 7/6/03, because he was remembering his telephone conversation with Tenet in approximately June 2003, wherein the Vice President learned for the first time of Valerie Wilson's position with the CIA. With respect to the 7/14/03 Novak column, he had been given no advance knowledge of the subject or substance of the column, and he had no idea Novak or any other reporter was working on such a story.

(U) ~~(S)~~ Vice President Cheney then reviewed documents bearing OVP Bates Stamp Numbers 2892 and 2893 which were two pages of handwritten notes depicting media talking points pertaining to Joe Wilson. Although the notes were not dated, he acknowledged that they appeared to have been written by Scooter Libby. After reviewing the notes, the Vice President stated that the talking points in the notes resemble something he would have said to Libby, but he cannot remember the specifics of the conversation. The Vice President stated again that he was not aware of which reporter, or reporters, were working with Scooter Libby on OVP responses to Joe Wilsons criticisms. The Vice President is not sure if Mr. Libby followed up with the media on these notes and talking points as he does not recall whether Libby reported back to him the results of any contact with reporters.

(U) ~~(S)~~ With respect to the portion of the notes containing the phrase "deep background," the Vice President indicated that Mr. Libby alone would be the judge of whether or not information was to be presented to any reporters with that caveat. As a general rule, the Office of the Vice President and the Vice President himself try not to be critical of other government agencies as it is not productive. His review of the Libby notes indicated to the Vice President that they generally contain the same information in them as was in the DCI's statement.

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(U) The Vice President defined his understanding of the ground rules he believed existed for reporters' use of information provided by the administration. He stated that information provided on the record could be used by the media in their reporting and also attributed to the source who provided it. Furnishing information "on background" means the information could be used and attributed to an anonymous administration official. When working "on deep background" the information could be used by a reporter to form derivative judgements, but not quoted or attributed to a source; and, finally, "off the record" means the information provided by a source could not be used.

(U) The Vice President repeated that he was not familiar with a reporter from Time magazine by the name of Matthew Cooper. The Vice President has no recollection of a misunderstanding between Scooter Libby and Time magazine wherein Libby had provided a quote relative to the Wilson matter to Time on the record and the quote, when published, was incomplete or truncated. The Vice President stated, apart from this instance, that would not be the first time that has happened in journalism. He also stated he had no recollection that Time made a change to the article in its subsequent on-line edition and printed the entire quote from Libby. He also has no recollection of instructing Libby to give the same information to Newsweek magazine as he gave to Time in the interest of balance. Because he does not have a very favorable view of Newsweek, the Vice President advised he could not conceive of giving such a direction, but stated it was possible he told Libby to contact both magazines. It is also possible that Libby made these contacts on his own initiative.

(U) Vice President Cheney reiterated that Libby's 7/12/03 handwritten notes look and sound like something he might dictate to Libby, but he cannot specifically recall having dictated such instructions to him on that occasion. The Vice President repeated that any decisions about whether Libby, when talking to the media, provides information "on the record" or "on background" are made by Libby himself. Finally, with respect to the Fall 2002 NIE, the Vice President did not believe he discussed it with Libby on 7/12/03. The Vice President advised that if Scooter Libby had any discussion with any reporters on 7/12/03 upon his return from Norfolk, VA, he must have viewed those discussions as unremarkable, inasmuch as the Vice President was never told the outcome of any conversations, discussions or interviews with the media by Libby.

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(U) The Vice President believed he read the Robert Novak column in the newspaper on the day it was published, 7/14/03. He cannot recall discussing it, or any of its contents, with anyone at the time it was published. He did not pay any particular attention to Novak's disclosure of the identity of Valerie Wilson, and he does not know how Novak might have received this information. He emphasized that it did not appear to him to be an important or even relevant fact in the Joe Wilson controversy.

(U) When asked his view of former Ambassador Wilson, the Vice President described him as something of an aggravation. He also advised that it is a bit hard for him to separate his feelings about Wilson from the 2003 time-frame of the publication of the various news articles, and from his view of Wilson now. The Vice President advised that his biggest problem in the entire Wilson matter has been the performance of the CIA. The Vice President noted that he had a history of experience with the CIA, and has been a consumer of CIA intelligence, ranging from his time as a Congressman when he served on the House Intelligence Committee, through his service as Secretary of Defense and currently as Vice President. The Vice President described himself as a long-time admirer of the CIA and its people and programs, but he characterized their performance in the Wilson matter as "amateur hour." His mind-set about the entire issue led him to wonder to himself about what was going on out at Langley. He also believed, with respect to Joe Wilson, that Wilson has built a career on this niche, noting that he understood Wilson had just written a book. He also saw him on television discussing the book and it appears that some of what Wilson has said has expanded over time.

(U) The Vice President indicated that in the July 2003 time-frame he did not have the impression that Joe Wilson was a partisan. His handwritten notes on the 7/6/03 editorial about Wilson's trip and the involvement of Wilson's wife in the CIA's selection of Wilson was triggered by his recollection of the prior telephone conversation he had with George Tenet, wherein Tenet identified Wilson's wife as an employee of the agency. The Vice President also indicated that he never discussed the substance of his call with Tenet with anyone prior to the publication of Valerie Wilson's identity in Novak's 7/14/03 newspaper column.

(U) Vice President Cheney advised that no one ever told him that Wilson went to Niger because of his wife's CIA status and, in fact, the Vice President does not have any idea to this day why Joseph Wilson was selected to go to Niger. He has never been

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advised by anyone of the findings of the CIA's Inspector General investigation alluded to by DCI Tenet in their initial telephone call regarding Wilson. The Vice President advised that it is possible he and Scooter Libby discussed former Ambassador Wilson's credentials for undertaking the mission for the CIA, but he has no specific recollection of such a discussion. Additionally, he does not recall any discussion with Libby of perceived nepotism associated with Wilson's selection for the CIA assignment. The Vice President believed, based on Joe Wilson's past service as an ambassador in the region, that his qualifications for the trip were "OK." However, the Vice President believed the CIA did not go about the mission in the right way. He assumed that Scooter Libby very likely shares his view of the CIA's handling of the Wilson mission as "amateur hour." The Vice President believed it possible that he and Libby discussed the Wilson trip as some kind of a junket or boondoggle, words which are to him synonymous in their meaning. However, he has no solid recollection of any such discussion.

(U) The Vice President advised that there was no discussion of "pushing back" on Wilson's credibility by raising the nepotism issue, and there was no discussion of using Valerie Wilson's employment with the CIA in countering Joe Wilson's criticisms and claims about Iraqi efforts to procure yellowcake uranium from Niger.

(U) The Vice President recalled the Gerald Ford 90th birthday party celebration at the White House on 7/16/03. He indicated that he was the host and organizer of the party and is aware that both Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan and his wife, NBC News reporter Andrea Mitchell, attended the party. Greenspan received an award from the Gerald Ford Foundation. The Vice President could not recall any discussion that evening with Andrea Mitchell about the Wilson matter. He advised that he has long known Andrea Mitchell and has been in attendance at numerous social functions with her in the past. He described her as a reporter who does not mix business and social occasions. The Vice President cannot recall if Secretary of State Powell attended the party, but he advised he was sure there was a list available of the party attendees.

(U) The Vice President advised that during the period from the publication of Robert Novak's column on 7/14/03, until the Department of Justice investigation was announced in late September, he does not recall much, if any, discussion about former

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ambassador Wilson and the trip to Niger. He has some recollection of Deputy National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley providing a "back-grounder" to the press addressing Iraq/WMD matters. He recalled that this briefing occurred some time shortly after declassification of the October 2002 NIE.

(U) The Vice President learned of the investigation at the same time White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales issued a document preservation order to all White House employees directing that they preserve any and all records relating to this matter. To the best of the Vice President's recollection, everyone in the White House was advised that because an investigation was underway, the documents were to be preserved and employees should not discuss the investigation with anyone else. At that time, no one came to him and told him of any discussion they had with Robert Novak regarding Valerie Wilson prior to the publication of Novak's column. No one told him at that time of talking to any reporters about Joe Wilson or Wilsons wife.

(U) The Vice President advised that he became aware of a statement that White House press secretary Scott McClellan made on 9/29/03 in his daily press briefing, wherein McClellan attempted to exonerate Karl Rove before the media as a possible source of the leak to Novak. The Vice President was not happy about it, as it appeared that the White House press office was putting down markers for some individuals and not for others. Specifically, Vice President Cheney believed that fairness dictated that similar disqualifying statements should be made to the media on behalf of Libby and Elliot Abrams of the NSC, both of whom were the speculative targets of leak allegations by the media that week.

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He did not know if Scooter Libby independently attempted to get the White House press office to make

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a statement clearing him prior to discussing it with the Vice President.

(U) Regarding his conversations with Libby about this time, although the Vice President has no specific memory of such a conversation, Libby may have told him he was not Novak's source. In any event, the Vice President did not suspect Libby of being Novak's source. He cannot recall Scooter Libby telling him how he first learned about Valerie Wilson. It is possible Libby may have learned about Valerie Wilson's employment from the Vice President after the Vice President's phone call with George Tenet, but the Vice President has no specific recollection of such a conversation. The Vice President also cannot recall ever waving Libby off, at a certain point in time, when Libby offered to tell him everything he knew about the Wilson matter. The Vice President has no recollection of Libby saying that he'd learned about Valerie Wilson from a reporter, nor does he have any recollection of Libby indicating that anyone else in the administration knew about Valerie Wilson's employment at the CIA. Moreover, Vice President Cheney does not have any recollection of Libby indicating that reporters with whom Libby was speaking about the Wilson matter, ever informed him of Valerie Wilson's employment with the CIA.

(U) The Vice President was then provided a document bearing OVP Bates Stamp number 002518. This document reflected some hand printed talking points on the top half, and the rest of the document contained separate handwritten notes on its lower half, which the Vice President advised was his handwriting. The Vice President recognized this note from a conversation he had with Scooter Libby after White House press secretary McClellan had issued his September 2003 press statement clearing Rove as Novak's source. He recalled Libby presented the hand printed talking points to him as a suggested response to the media to be used by McClellan in an effort to clear Libby of any involvement in the leak. The Vice President, during the interview, read aloud the handwritten portion of the document. The Vice President stated that he could not decipher that part of his own handwritten notes which appeared to have been crossed out. He stated that the crossed out words might have been written as "the Pres.", however, Vice President Cheney advised he could not be certain and, in any event, it had been crossed out. The Vice President stated that the portion of his handwritten notes which read in part, "...sacrifice the guy that was asked to stick his neck in the meat grinder because of the incompetence of others", was his reference to the efforts of Libby who was forced to respond to numerous media inquiries involving Joe

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Wilson because of the incompetence of the CIA. The Vice President believed at the time that both Libby and Elliot Abrams were being left out there in the public eye as the alleged sources for Novak in the aftermath of McClellan's public exoneration of Karl Rove.

(U) The Vice President acknowledged that it was also his handwriting in the left margin of the one-page note referring to "Tenet" and "Wilson memo." However, he said his review of that portion of the document did not ring a bell as to why he wrote those words. The Vice President could not recall exactly when he wrote this note, but assumes it had to have been sometime after McClellan's September 2003 press statement about Rove, and prior to a similar statement McClellan subsequently issued during a press briefing denying any involvement in the leak on the part of either Libby or Abrams as Novak's sources.

(U) The Vice President does not recall any member of his staff, including Scooter Libby, meeting with New York Times reporter Judith Miller during the week of 7/7/03, just after publication of Joe Wilson's editorial in the New York Times. The Vice President was familiar with Judith Miller and her reporting expertise in the area of weapons of mass destruction. The Vice President does recall some OVP discussion with Miller about the key judgements of the Fall, 2002 NIE around the time of the declassification of the NIE. The Vice President recalled this time-frame as being after Baghdad had fallen and the search was on in Iraq for weapons of mass destruction. The Vice President recalled that certain portions of the NIE had been declassified regarding WMD, namely the summary judgment portions about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and those parts of the body of the overall NIE report which dealt with Iraq's efforts to procure uranium from Africa.

(U) The Vice President described the declassification process stating that the President has the ultimate authority to declassify a document, with other declassification responsibilities vested with those agencies having originally classified a given document. He also noted that the Vice President himself had declassification authority which commonly occurs when two different agencies cannot agree on the declassification of certain matters and the Vice President, in essence, referees the dispute. As an example,

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[REDACTED] The Vice President advised he eventually made the declassification decisions in those matters.

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(U) With respect to the NIE, questions had arisen about the President's decision to go to war with Iraq, so the White House had been in favor of declassifying the summary judgment portions of the NIE, and eventually made the decision to declassify them. The Vice President advised that he was unaware of any objections to the declassification coming from the CIA. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Issues relating to those portions of the NIE had been publicly discussed on several prior occasions, including with the publication of a White Paper in the Fall of 2002 and in Secretary Powell's speech to the United Nations prior to the Iraq war. [REDACTED]

b5

[REDACTED] Therefore, the White House made the decision to declassify the portions of the NIE mentioned above. The Vice President recalled again that after the declassification, Steve Hadley provided a background briefing and the Vice President believed Communications Director Dan Bartlett attended the briefing. When advised that the NIE was declassified on 7/19/03, the Vice President stated that he believed it was declassified before that date. He recalled [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He said there was never any "secret" declassification of the NIE by him, as he would not have kept such a decision from the other principals mentioned above.

(U) With respect to dissemination of the information contained in the NIE to the press, the Vice President advised that it is possible to talk about something contained in a classified document without violating the law regarding declassification. For example, the Vice President has made numerous public statements about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction which were based on and, in some cases tracked, his reading of classified information, including the NIE. However, he did not violate any relevant laws or rules in making these statements because he did not reveal the confidential sources or methods involved in gathering the classified information. Vice President Cheney advised that he believed it was justifiable to rely on classified information to shape and inform what one says publicly. He further advised that his own public statements at times tracked the NIE and were

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[FD-302] (Rev. 10-6-95)

(S)

b1

Continuation of [FD-302] of

Richard B. Cheney

, On 5/8/04

, Page 27

informed by data within the NIE. Vice President Cheney believed this was a perfectly appropriate way to use the NIE.

(U) The Vice President advised that no one ever told him of a desire to share key judgments of the NIE with a news reporter prior to the NIEs declassification on 7/18/03. The Vice President advised that the only person on his staff who would have made such a request was Scooter Libby who was familiar with the governing rules for utilizing the information contained in the NIE. Libby knew it was appropriate to use the information in the NIE derivatively, without attributing it to its source and without disseminating the actual NIE document itself. The Vice President cannot specifically recall having a conversation with Scooter Libby during which Libby advised the Vice President that he wanted to share the key judgments of the NIE with Judith Miller. Although the Vice President cannot recall having such a conversation, if one did occur, he would have advised Libby only to use something if it was declassified. He believed Libby would have told him about any attempts to put something out to the media prior to its declassification and the Vice President cannot recall such a discussion. However, the Vice President does recall having a conversation at some time with Libby about the NIE.

(U) When asked if he ever had a conversation with Scooter Libby wherein Libby informed the Vice President that certain material within the NIE needed to be declassified before it could be shared externally, Vice President Cheney advised that he does not recall. When asked if he ever advised Libby that the President had decided to declassify the NIE, the Vice President declined to answer in view of his concerns about sharing potentially privileged conversations between himself and the President. It was clarified for the Vice President that he was not being asked to comment on the substance of his conversations with the President, but rather, only whether he ever told Libby that he had such a discussion with the President. In response, Vice President Cheney repeated his assertion that he must refrain from commenting to the investigators about any private and/or privileged conversations he may have had with the President.

(U) Finally, the Vice President reiterated that it should be noted that a distinction existed in the NIE between information located in the summary judgement portions of the NIE and those portions in the body of the report dealing with Iraqi efforts to obtain uranium from Africa. All of the summary judgement information in the NIE, about a wide range of topics, was

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[FD-302a] (Rev. 10-6-95)

(S)

b1

Continuation of [FD-302] of

Richard B. Cheney

. On 5/8/04

. Page 28

declassified, while only that part of the body of the NIE regarding Iraqi efforts to obtain uranium from Africa was declassified, with the balance of the NIE remaining classified.

(U) After the Vice President again mentioned that he was pressed for time, two separate requests were made to Vice President Cheney in an effort to assist the DOJ/FBI investigation into this matter. First, an FBI waiver form was presented to the Vice President and copies were given to his attorneys. It was explained to Vice President Cheney that his signature was being sought on the waiver form in order to release any reporters with whom the Vice President may have had conversations about the subject matter of this investigation, from promises of confidentiality arising from any such conversations. Vice President Cheney acknowledged receipt of the FBI's waiver form but declined to sign until his attorneys have had sufficient time to review it.

(U) Secondly, it was requested of Vice President Cheney and his lawyers that all parties to this interview agree to refrain from any external discussion of this subject matter with any unauthorized persons. It was specifically requested that no discussions take place with other witnesses in this case and that the classified nature of the subject matters discussed in this interview be properly protected. In response to this special request, the Vice President's attorney, Terry O'Donnell, advised that he understood the FBI's request, but said he could not make a binding commitment to refrain from discussing the interview with persons who may need to help him properly advise and represent his client. The Special Counsel explained that it was important to ensure that everything be done to keep the recollections of other witnesses from being influenced.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

DATE: 10-28-2009
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[FD-340] (Rev. 4-2-85)

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Title: _____

Reference: _____

(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of

RICHARD B. CHENEY

b1

b6
b7c

1A-242

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

5-8-04 - AT WH - PF - JE - TF
VP Cheney - w/ Terry O'D. + E. Flood

- Presumably - by PF
- Privilege - Inquiries of D.A. - Pres. instructed
authorized him re relating to in-
vestigation

-
- doesn't know who talked w/ RN
 - No one talked to him about talking w/ RN
 - other reporters - no one he knows has talked to him
about talking to reporters
 - No one
 - No pers. knowledge - of anyone or anyone tell him they
talked to

1st learned of Wilson - news reports - ex - Enay May/04
re Iraqi attempts to acquire
OVP - know about trip - to WP 103

- 2/02 - inquiry - he made briefed -

- 1st article - NY Times column - Whitoff editorial - 5/02

not
one of
date
visit to
CIA

2/03 - went to CIA - w/SL several times
- doesn't believe he discussed Wilson trip on any
visits to CIA - can't recall
- usually agenda

3/03 - not aware of Wilson CNN appearance then

SECRET

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

- 2 -

- Pincus article in Post - press queries re whether VP signed off on Wilson trip

- Pincus may have called ~~DP~~ OVP - not him - maybe staff

(S)

Per OGA

- 6/10 - No recollection of discussion w/ COT & [redacted]

b1
b3

- Admin. efforts on research Wilson - he called COT -

COT didn't know what was going on

[redacted]

b2
b5

[redacted] used to various agencies

(COT)

substantively to COT's tone & temperament

- he was defensive - one call
- cordial nature of conversation
- can't recall anything else in conv. w/ COT
- doesn't recall id. of Wilson by COT or his wife's name

- can't recall - may have mentioned to SL - would've shared w/ SL if anyone - this would not have probably been shared w/ his OVP -

- 6/13 - Knutson
- 6/19 - New Republic } can't recall article

~~SECRET~~

Pincus - inquirer possibly to SL & Kory

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

-3-

7/6 - became aware of Wilson ed. - in W/going for 7/4 weekend - read it there
or en plane or when he got back (maybe on 7th)

Reaction

- Amaten hour at CIA - sent on assignment - by SP - didn't see docs, - no significance of confidentiality - no written report file
- article gave VP more detail on trip than he'd had
- disturbed because all came from a fraction of Air to his wife in 2/02
- after he read - probably called someone - ^{couldn't} who he talked to
- during this time - SORT / British White Paper - discussion - back with - week culminated w/ OT statement re Niger & knocked down some of JW's assertions

~~editorial~~ - tore it out - 7/7 - writing on editorial

- can't remember when he wrote - probably contemporaneous -
he ^{supposedly} at time he read + practice to underline -
his writing + underlining at same time

- he discussed the underlined portions as follows
- yes but... re transfer it had happened

~~SECRET~~

- struck him as he read it - not a serious enterprise
- re last part portion - not never happened - re reports
- at it - serious - M. + ...

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

usually w/ articles

- 4 -

- sometimes carrier does, w/ him few days - then out
- can't recall if he discussed ~~unreliable~~ ^{source} - ~~did~~ ^{but not} ~~exp~~
- doesn't know where it was kept - didn't ask for anything special

til 7/14 - before R article re Wilson's wife
no discussion w/ COT - ~~DDCI~~

- recalls "giggling" OI or DDCI to send Wilson on a trip - ~~unrelated~~ matter
- Wilson's wife became big deal after 7/14

[redacted] - at some point, [redacted]

(S)

Per OGA

Brief - 02/ - Dave Tenney

(S)

- Craig Schwall

CIA

P. 4

3 same faxes on 6/9 - hand-delivered

1:19pm | 2:42 PM | 3:53 PM

BS 1445 at reg. (1465) - didn't recognize specifically

012 date - brief

(S)

[redacted] lacked detail

~~SECRET~~

Per OGA

(S)

[redacted]

recalls

determined forged - may have generated the compilation

~~SECRET~~

b1
b3
b5

b1
b3

~~SECRET~~

- 5 -

p. 1450 - can't recall the doc, -
- can't recall what exactly triggered his
inquiry re Harry Winger
- commented re #3

- #6 - saw a memo ^{written by} from someone who
delivered JW

p. 1456 - handwriting at top - doesn't recognize printing
at top

p. 1472 - 1481

p. 1475 - #6 circled, underlined, & asterisked - not
done by him - doesn't know who did

1552 - 1553 - recognized as "Wilson's deliv" -
saw it ~~in~~ later - his handwriting -
"Wilson" - after story developed -
"red flag" - Summer '03
underlined - [May, June, July]

- seem to show that former Pat thought they'd
been approached by ~~reps~~

- can't recall if before 7/6

1588 & 1590 → "Joe Wilson" - different format
(no 1589) → missing

look like his

~~SECRET~~

- was no idly why different format - many
have asked for another line to look

1781-1790

a. 1784 - copies of name this. re. Joe Wilson - print & not

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

- 6 -

- on 1784 - script could be libby's - not printed

- guessing that : looks like an effort by CIA to respond

b1
b3
b5

(S)

Congress

Per OGA

timing - after Wilson thing became public -
when he saw/read reflection - that was only doc. he
produced - widely disseminated -
but never made to VP

- possibly after questions raised re VP involvement -

- intense after 7/6 (speculated)

- Knot off + 1 incur - not as intense

- alot going on - 16 words - relates to some
threat to this

- he doesn't take press calls - KM

- would've gone to KM / possibly substance - Scott

- gave guidance to both of them - can't recall
May/June - generally

1. did ask for questions

2. got answer

3.

4. didn't get answer

5. never briefed on results

- some 16 words -

- can't draw distinction pre 7/6 + after 7/6 regarding -
in his mind

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

-7-

129-191 - VP can't recall seeing before

147-148-

p. 162 - 3/25/03 doc.

165 - 3/25/03 doc. -

} doesn't recognize

P. 2/
only Re Wilson / Wilson's wife -
FBI - can't

Federalism - ran NSC op. under libby - no
specific rec. - but possible

Patel -

w/ Grath - admin. side - wouldn't have probably discussed w/ her

Yammale - Middle East - doesn't ordinarily talk
nitell, - poor - not likely

Martin - one - re JW
none recalled w/ Jan

- can't recall Kar telling him about VW working at Agency -

re Fun/Distribution / Hardy Deal - CA

1000

med -

recalls tension between

effort to get statement out - CIA/NSC

can't recall ~~if~~ this matter w/ either CH or SH

Wolfowitz - ~~Kunz~~ Kunzfeld - 8

Wife didn't figure prominently - wife not
mentioned on radar screen

- probably covered w/ Cd re JW - not recall if his wife

- Card - would've re re JW - not VN

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

- 8 -

- Morning briefing - POTUS / VP / Card / CR
8:00 Tent / DDCI / Pres. Wier

- 4 will discuss course of topics - [recall]
[redacted] - after it
became public - poss. pre 7/6 - probably post 7/6
poss. on 7/7

- wouldn't have discussed on Sunday 7/6 w/ poss.
doesn't recall discussing ever w/ wife w/
POTUS

none of either } Powell -
of them } Butage -
of them } Kroenke - } none recall from staff either

Mohrman - none

SSG've ~~post. -~~ Mary Malahin - poss. - discussed w/ her
didn't know if she ~~connected~~ w/ her - poss. reached out to her for advice
didn't discuss details talk on SW or VW

- has known Navah for yrs -
not much contact
- interview w/ Navah - transition - Powell O'Neill
- may have done TV interviews
- doesn't talk on phone
- never discussed w/ main SW or VW

- i.e. - meet the press afterwards

wanted to ~~ask~~ answer question - maybe discussed
w/ Man - no specifics

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

- 9 -

- Can't recall disc. w/ m m re VW - possible

SL - assumes he discussed JW w/ Libby when it 1st came up

- Can't recall discussing VW pre 7/14 w/ SC

SL - never told him about cov. w/ M. Krumm or A. Fletcher re Wilson/wife

- would've wanted w/ Press office briefed

SC knew w/ AF - not aware

Contractual allegations of JW w/ CIA - he didn't make inquiry - someone might have asked - not clear

aware of paperwork inquiry

prior to 7/14 - SC talking w/ reporters - re JW - SC doesn't clear w/ him

- other than Kyoto/J. Pincus - no other reporters

- he recalled - not trying to generate coverage - only respond

- SC w/ rd - not aware prior to 7/14 -

didn't tell him about his inquiry

- SOTU outline - not aware

[Chris Matthews] - unfavorable coverage - always - that week - he doesn't recall [CM] per se being a partic. problem - but it's possible

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

-10-

- [Russert] not aware of plan or if he did talk w/ Winn - [aware TR is Iranian chief]
- Rose - not aware of any disc. - nor did SC tell Winn

- Re the Africa trip - 7/7 to 7/12 - no discussion re Wilson issue - recall talking to CR re OT statement - OT statement addressed Wilson controversy - i.e. - Agency sending Winn out on their own - no brief to VP or POTUS
- OT statement cleared VP re sending
- can't recall specific disc. w/ ~~CR~~ CR re Wilson

b5

- only phone conv. w/ anyone on AF 1 - CR

OT - statement ^{recollection -} didn't feel statement went as far as it could've

b5

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

- 11 -

b5

- ~~the~~ content of NIE de-classified
- Wilson report/cable declass. & included in COT Statement
- conceivable he would've discussed Wilson
- ~~COT~~ statement covered bulk:
 - CIA sent on its own
 - approach by Day → Nyer
 - results of trip not briefed

b5

- CR to Press - "mistake" -

- AF press source may have

b5

Practice of briefing -

7 AM - 30 min. at VP residence

8 AM - in Oval Office briefing

b1
b3

(S)

Per OGA

SL - sits in 5 days a week

Saturday 10 -

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

-12-

(P. 9) 7/12 briefing - can't recall the topics or that particular brief

1537-
1543

handwriting - his - Wilson (?) - note

- edited but similar to previous doc. he saw
- A6 - refers back to his report
- can't recall the brief by looking at doc.

[redacted] looks like a doc. he ~~wasn't~~ might have kept - but not positive he kept this one

- can't recall keeping this specific document
- may have gotten the doc. from SC
- 1538 - his handwriting + underlining
- 1539 - underlining on NIE + ✓

and 7/12 - not very aware of which reporter called that week w/

- on A2 to Norfolk
- remembers day - commission the Reagan - looked forward to doing it
- spent day w/ NR - old friends - Yale
- plane ride - wife - family member -
- can't recall SC - family - [redacted]

~~SECRET~~

- arrived - went to Admiral's house - met NR there (Pennsylvania House)
- spent time on carrier where Channing

~~SECRET~~

b1
b3

(S)

Per OGA

b6
b7c

~~SECRET~~

-13-

- recalls helicopter ride to plane - short trip back
- can't recall trip back
- poss. - can't specifically recall - discussed
press. inquiries
wouldn't be surprised
- sees him several times a day - can't recall specifics - he may have given strategy
- strategy is question from particular reporters -
Kessler / Cooper
unknown / he doesn't know
- poss. told Scooter to call rather than Catherine
Seligman, Rubin, experience
routine
- Capability - Good in getting things done - follow thru
- doesn't have SC's experience

-
- on Af 2 - possibly talked about killing points again
Get statement out
 - wouldn't be expected
 - logical - he ~~should~~ have dictated
 - no talking points re JW's wife - can't recall if he or Scooter @ & he discussed her as data point

7/12 - he didn't know then what SC knew about VW

~~SECRET~~ - doesn't recall him telling SC or Scooter
telling him about Wilson's wife

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

-14-

- 1st he heard of Wilson's wife - con. w/ CoT - then didn't hear about her again until Novak column
- + notation on NY Times he made
- Never told by hand of Novak piece or knew Novak or any other reporter working on

BSs-2892 + 2893 / Libby notes -

- after VP reviewed - would be something + points he'd like to make - take SL's words there are 9/12 notes
- not sure who SL talking to in Press - ^{which} ~~reporter~~ ^{SL}
- not sure if ~~SL~~ followed up + results of his
- SL judge of "deep background" use - gen. will OVP ever to not be critical
- same info. as Tenet statement

On record - use + attribute it
Background - Admin - Official
Deep Background - use - don't attribute
Off record - can't use

- i.e. of Matt Cooper - not known to him

no collection of this information

- Time Mag. - SL - on record quote - dispute - incomplete or truncated - not 1st time
- Time Online - change made
- Time - Newswatch balance - he can't conceive but

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

- 15 -

- Notes sound like him - can't specifically recall -
- SC makes those "on record" "background" decisions himself

- N/E decision w/SC on 7/12 - no

- SC - viewed as remarkable - any decision w/ reports -
whether he said or press said - nothing told by SC to him

7/14 - RN column - read in paper - can't recall discussing w/ anyone -

- only recall ~~the~~ class. info. discussion in paper at that time

View of Wilson - something of an organization

- hard to separate feelings then from now

- biggest problem w/ Agency - Long & perine

~~the~~ w/ CIA - At Sec. / legislative - NSC / oversight

- admin -

- but this was "amateur" house

- mindset - what was going on at Langley

~~SECRET~~ - Wilson was built a career on this niche

- Nepotism - ~~thought~~ triggered his note on Glenn

- in July - not viewed as participant

- 1st thought - triggered by C/T phone call - never

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

- 10 -

- no one ever ~~was~~ told him he went because of this
- he still doesn't know why JW was picked to go
+ has never been told

7/6 column -

on TV the other night - he said things which have
been expanded over time

- poss. discussions w/ SC about JW's credentials
but no specific recollection or negotiation
- looking at his qualifications - OK -
but CIA didn't go about the mission
- assumes SC shared view of CIA "dumb as a horse"
- poss. can't recall "jumbled (boondoggle)" discussion
w/ SC (same meaning)
- No pushback discussion re how he got trip -
no talking points "VW"
"discussion re VW"

7/10 - Ford b-day party -

Greenpan attended - A. Mitchell - hosted

Can't recall any conv. w/ A. Mitchell

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

-17-

- social occasion - A. Mitchell - doesn't mind social + business
- can't recall if Sec. Powell at event - ♥ list available

after 7/14 → late September -
Can't recall ^{much} any discussion of JW issue
Post 7/14 - S. Hadley - background to press - after declassifying
- addressing WMD question + NIE
- July - dealt w/ Iraq WMD + NIE

< learned of investigation - Gorgally - re DOJ -
preserve docs.

- Dr. 13 - recollection - everybody told basically - investigation underway / preserve docs. / don't discuss investigation w/ anyone
- Re anyone coming to him ^{re} prior discussion w/ RD
 - No one told him anyone talking to reporter about it
 - SL - discussion w/ reporter?
 - McCallum 9/29 press statement - exposed KR -
 - Press Office - putting down maker - not happy -

~~SECRET~~

b5

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

-18-

b5

- doesn't know if SC tried to get clearing statement
or 4
- SC may have told VP not source - he never suspected
- Can't recall SC telling him how learned about VW -
never told him drove off - fire lawyer -
re anything
- can't recall SC ~~telling~~ offering to tell him everything
- Can't recall
- poss. ~~the~~ SC told him he'd learned about VW from VP -
I can't recall specifically
(after 60 call)
- SC telling him from reporter - no recollection
" " " someone else in admin. knew - "
- SC tell him - he'd reported to reporter + been
told by reporter about VW's wife

MEET CHINBER document -

printing - SC thinks

bottom handwriting - his

recollection - this comes from conv. w/SC that above

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

-19-

- SL came to him - looks like suggested talking pte.
to Mr. Clellan

- Read the quote - the cross-out - can't read it -
doesn't know

~~can't~~ poss. it's the Pres. (scratched out)
~~tell~~ Pres. was -

- stick with in Meeting - SL have to answer
questions generated

- Incompetence at Agency -

- SL + EA being left out there

That Wilson knew - VP's handwriting - no bell ring

- assumes it was post briefing - on KR
+ before examination of EA + SL

- doesn't work on e-mail in office or home

- week of 1/4 - can't recall if staff met w/ Judith
Miller - can't recall SL meeting
w/ her

- discussion of Key judgments of NIE w/ Miller -
period of time - declassifying NIE

- Baghdad's fallen - search on for WMD -

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

- 20 -

- declassified portions of ~~some~~^{NIE} - summary judgments -
+ portions in body re Iraq + ~~with~~ ^{war} in efforts
Africa

- declass. process - POTUS
- Agency origination
- VP

- wanted to declass. summary judgments of NIE - made
by WH - can't recall CIA objections

[REDACTED]

b5

[REDACTED] - alot out earlier - white paper
in O. G. - some in Powell's UN statement

[REDACTED]

- decision at WH to declassify -

[REDACTED]

- believe declassified before

[REDACTED]

never a
secret declassification - he ~~wouldn't~~ wouldn't have
kept from other principals

~~SECRET~~

- To release to press - talk from classified info.
w/out it being declassified - trans NIE

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

- Anyone ever tell him - 21-
wanted to share
Key judgments of NIE w/ reporter prior to its
declassification on 7/18
- Knows when ~~the~~ ^{the} NIE was declassified
 - SL would have been the only one to do so -
appropriate to use the info. in the NIE -
different than handing out the document
itself
 - re cov. w/ SL - re Judith Miller - share key
judgments w/ NIE
 - would have only told him to use something if
declassified -
can't recall
 - SL would've told him - couldn't put something
out because it was declassified - has a
recollection of cov. w/ SL re ~~the~~ NIE -
 - distinction between Iraq/Africa / Summary
judgments

DOB - 1-30-41

SSAN -

b6
b7C

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
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[FD-340] (Rev. 4-2-85)

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DATE: 10-28-2009
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1A(178)

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Title: *White House / CIA Leak Investigation*

Reference:

(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of

Vice President Richard B. Cheney

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

*Notes taken during interview of V. P. in
black ink on 5/8/04.*



FBI

b6
b7C

CHENEY OUTLINE (MAY 7, 2004)

~~SECRET~~

INITIAL OVERVIEW (ONE TO TWO HOUR COVERAGE)

GET HIM TALKING IN HIS OWN WORDS

TEST WHETHER MILLER AND NIE COMES UP WITHOUT PROMPTING

DO WE THINK HE HAS SEEN LIBBY NOTES?
CATHIE M NOTES?

INTRO:

NOT INTERESTED IN POLITICS FOR PRURIENT REASONS

*explicit instructions to
ask advice on potential
commitments.*

BUT DO NEED TO KNOW STATE OF MIND

BOTTOM LINE:

DOES HE KNOW WHO TALKED TO NOVAK ABOUT WILSON'S WIFE?

no

DOES HE KNOW ANYONE WHO TALKED TO ANY OTHER REPORTERS ABOUT
WILSON'S WIFE BEFORE JULY 14?

AFTER JULY 14?

GENERAL WILSON RELATED QUESTIONS:

NY Times? Hannity?

WHEN LEARNED ABOUT WILSON'S ROLE EVEN IF NOT NAME?

These report: May/June

WHEN LEARNED NAME?

These period in Aug/Sept/October

VP had signature in Feb. 02 of CIA brief

2002?

2003?

Used have been handled (press) by Cathie Martin.

WHEN LEARNED ABOUT WILSONS' WIFE? FROM WHOM?

MARCH 03

*VP: Several trips to Springfield w/ Scooter. Usually
specific agenda. Does not recall Wilson being document*

[VP AND LIBBY VISIT PRIOR TO WAR
WILSON HAD BEEN ON CNN
ANY DISCUSSION OF WILSON TRIP?]

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

*VP's concern
about Pres.
privilege.*

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

APRIL 03

MAY 03

MAY 6: KRISTOF PIECE

JUNE 03

Pincus may have called Kristof

JUNE 5: PINCUS RE: VISITS TO CIA, PRESSURING

b1
b3
b5

(S)

JUNE 10: AT CIA WITH TENET AND [REDACTED]

Can't recall

Per OGA

JUNE 12 PINCUS RE: ENVOY TO NIGER

JUNE 13 KRISTOF RE CIA POINTING AT WH

JUNE 19: NEW REPUBLIC: 3 TIME AMBASSADOR

"FLAT OUT LIE"

*Giving in for time from
On MLP - Seem phone. Believing
it was all one call. Corded.*

JUL 03

JULY 6: WILSON OP ED AND TV

DISCUSS WILSON'S WIFE WITH

TENET?

McLAUGHLIN

CIA BRIEFERS?

CIBBY (HOLD IF NUMEROUS)

EDELMAN

NEIL PATEL

DEAN MCGEE

Per OGA

CATHIE MARTIN?

Not sure. Doesn't recall. Possible portfolio

Doesn't think so.

No recollection. Is possible.

Has given guidance to Wilson

How much Cathie's... to his for to mention

V.W.? No.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

b5

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

RUMSFELD? *No*

WOLFOWITZ? *No*

NSC? *Rice: Don't recall. Weber > Wilson yes.
Hodley:*

ANDY CARD? *He would have been involved in conv. w/ J.W.
Not V.W.*

KARL ROVE? *J.W. possibly. Spoke Intel. of principal. Recall that*

PRESIDENT? *of speaking to POTUS for J.W. Don't recall that
he even spoke to POTUS re W's wife.*

KEN MEHLMAN? *No.*

POWELL? *No recollection? Either J.W. or V.W.*

ARMITAGE? *No recollection?*

GROSSMAN? *No recollection?*

*Many mistakes?
Possible. She left card of '02
may have received guidance
from many mistakes.
Cannot specifically recall.*

ANY RESEARCH DONE ON WILSON, WILSON'S TRIP OR WILSON'S WIFE?

VP HAVE ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH NOVAK? *Has known Novak for a long time.*

SPEAK? *Known to have contact? Not V. often. Interviewed during
the transition. Mistake on Paul O'Neill. May have done a
TV Show.*

GO TO NOVAK FORUM?

LIBBY RELATED QUESTIONS:

When 1st came up via press queries.

WHEN DISCUSSED WITH LIBBY? *Not until after July 14*

RE: WILSON GENERALLY

RE: KRISTOF?

[LIBBY NOTES: SHOW?
JUNE NOTES RE: FUNCTIONAL
OFFICE AT CPD]

RE: PINCUS

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

DISCUSSED JUNE INR?

EXHIBIT

WHEN DISCUSSED 4/03 CIA REPORT?

EXHIBIT

OTHER CIA DOCUMENTS?

JUNE 9 DOCUMENTS

WHEN FIRST SAW?

WHAT CAUSED?

MULTIPLE COPIES

WHO DISCUSSED WITH?

LIBBY?

HANNAH?

IDENTIFY HANDWRITING?

1456

1538 [later]

1552

1588

1784

3 FAXES ON JUNE 9: 1:19 PM; 2:42 PM; 3:53 PM

1445-1465: Heiden production contains document dated 6/9/03 from Hannah to VP transmitting 3/03 CIA report:

1456: handwriting on p. 7: "Did CIA have it in their document?"

1472: same document from Cathie Martin production [header also from CIA 6/9/03]

1475: p. 2: underline and asterisk near section about Wilson (did not

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

*!P. doesn't know
how printing.*

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

name Wilson)

1480: p. 7 also underlined in section that refers back to p. 2

1552: "Wilson" handwritten on copy of CIA report

1588 - "Joe Wilson" written on cable

1784: on CIA report handwritten "Joe Wilson [print]
Wilson [script]"

WHEN DISCUSSED WILSON COLUMN?

COLUMN WITH HANDWRITTEN NOTES?

JULY 6 WILSON OP ED

WHERE WERE YOU?

REACTION?

UPSET?

WHO DISCUSSED WITH?

ARE THESE VP'S NOTES?

WHEN WROTE NOTES ON ARTICLE?

ASK FOR ORIGINAL

WHY IN SAFE?

JULY 6 ANNOTATED

"Have they done this sort of thing before?"

"Send an Amb to answer a question?"

"Do we ordinarily send people out pro bono to work for us?"

"Or did his wife send him on a junket?"

5

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

*the Wilson debrief
VP's handwriting*

could be Luby's

may have asked

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

[IF WROTE RIGHT AWAY:

SO KNEW ABOUT WILSON'S WIFE BEFORE
NOVAK?

HOW?]

[IF WROTE LATER:

WHERE DID NEWSPAPER COME FROM?
WHY WAIT UNTIL LATER TO WRITE?

WHAT NOT WRITTEN ABOUT IT THAT LEARNED
LATER?]

ASK FOR ORIGINAL VP ARTICLE

HANDWRITING ON ORIGINAL PAPER?

IS THIS FROM WYOMING?

WRITTEN ON PLANE

[DO NOT ASK: WHAT DOES "WK" MEAN?]

CUT OUT WITH PENKNIFE

SHOWN TO ANY ONE ELSE?

UNDERLINING:

WHO DID THE UNDERLINING?

DISCUSS WITH LIBBY ANY CONVERSATIONS HE HAD WITH

*ROVE OR OTHERS
FROM ANY OTHER AGENCY?*

GROSSMAN?

ARI FLEISCHER?

[DAVID ADDINGTON?]

Agency
EVER DISCUSS WITH YOU WHETHER WILSON BROKE HIS CONTRACT

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

BY TALKING ABOUT TRIP

EVER TALK ABOUT PAPERWORK HE WOULD FILL OUT

DISCUSS LIBBY CONVERSATIONS WITH NOVAK

DID NOVAK ASK LIBBY FOR OUTLINE OF PROCESS BY WHICH
STATE OF THE UNION PREPARED

Libby would have been gpt to

guy trying to respond

DO on chrono.

RUSSETT CONVERSATION

[CHRIS MATTHEWS] OVER THE TOP?

TICKED OFF ABOUT IT?

SCOOTER TICKED OFF?

SCOOTER TELL YOU HE WAS GOING TO COMPLAIN TO [RUSSETT]
ABOUT [CHRIS MATTHEWS] COVERAGE

He mentioned

b5

TELL YOU HE MADE THE CALL?

" .. re Row & press.

TELL YOU [RUSSETT] TOLD HIM ANYTHING

JULY 7 TO JULY 14

*7TH TENET?
E IN TENET/STATEMENT
FROM JULY 11?*

ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT [RUSSETT]?

ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT NOVAK?

ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT ANY CON
HAD WITH PRESS?

WITH NOVAK?

DISCUSSION WITH ANY PERSONS ON AFRICA TRIP RE: WILSON ISSUE

*NOVAK AT
IA? AT STATE?*

POTUS *NO*

CARD *NO*

Does not recall any discussion re Wilson

*Wouldn't be surprised if he
had conversation w/ Tenet & Kelly
during week of return - can't recall.*

*UP wanted to put
it all out there*

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

RICE - Just on Travel sheet.

POWELL. - 160

BARTLETT 16

FLEISCHER 16

GONZALEZ 16

DISCUSSION WITH CATHIE MARTIN ABOUT WILSON'S WIFE?

CATHIE TELL YOU THAT WILSON'S WIFE WORKED AT CIA?

[IF DOES NOT RECALL: CATHIE MARTIN SAYS THAT HARLOW IS GETTING CALLS FROM ANDREA MITCHELL AND DAVID MARTIN - IT IS AGREED THAT SCOOTER LIBBY WILL RETURN CALL]

[IF NOT, RECALL THAT CATHIE MARTIN COMPLAINED THAT SHE WAS SUSPECTED OF TALKING TO MARTIN OR MITCHELL; CAME UP AT MEETING CHAIRED BY HADLEY IN THE MORNING]

KNOW IT ALREADY?

ANY REACTION?

AIR FORCE TWO:

MORNING BRIEFING

DOCUMENTS

DID YOU HAVE JULY 12 DOCUMENT FROM CIA WITH YOU?

WHY?

WHAT ELSE KEPT?

1537: "prepared by CIA
Received 7/12/03" [document similar to the 3/03 report]

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

*U.P.'s handwriting
Reported...
Para 6. Wilson - U.P.'s handwriting*

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

1538: "Wilson?" written on copy of CIA report

WHOSE HANDWRITING? VP's

Underlined 1999 trip

Underlined NIE

STATE OF KNOWLEDGE THAT DAY

specific recollection of the Scooter conversation?

*HE TO ANY RE-
ZTERS YOURSELF?
WIKI ABOUT WHY
WIFE NOT NAMED
TALKING POINTS?
USS SENSITIVITY?*

AT THIS POINT DID YOU KNOW THAT REPORTERS WERE DISCUSSING WILSON'S WIFE? *Yes. But...*

WHAT DID SCOOTER TELL YOU ABOUT HIS CONTACTS WITH REPORTERS? *Nothing*

SCOOTER DISCUSS ANY CONVERSATION WITH TIM RUSSERT WITH YOU?

DISCUSS ROVE CONVERSATION WITH NOVAK?

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT WILSON'S WIFE? *yes from MLP.*

DISCUSS WHAT TO SAY ABOUT WILSON'S WIFE? *Could Recall*

THOUGHT IT OK FOR HIM TO TALK ABOUT WILSON'S WIFE?

[BELIEVE IT CLASSIFIED?]

*Conversation of Janet by memo-
on 11/11/01 press.*

ANY DISCUSSION WITH SCOOTER LIBBY ON AIR FORCE TWO ON WAY DOWN?

CONVERSATION UPON RETURN TRIP

WHAT DISCUSSED?

WHAT SAID?

WHO WAS LIBBY TO TALK TO?

*I DO THIS ON
my own in this
MANNER? ACTING ON ANY
ADVICE FROM OTHERS?*

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

WHAT TO SAY?

WHY LIBBY NOT CATHIE MARTIN?

EXHIBIT

[2892] **Mags: Deny Wilson-VP link**
 On record?
 On record @ [crossed out]

[continues with on record discussion of VP asking Qs about Niger]

WHY OFF RECORD? *Current Recall*

[2893] VP [crossed out: did not know anything]
 Written above [UI unaware Joe Wilson]
 trip and didn't know about until
 this year when became public
 after SOTU

Deep background

Only written record of Wilson
trip included statement that "former
PM of Niger saying he had
been approached by
Iraqi officials in what he believed
to be an effort to acquire
uranium in 1999"

Didn't see until recently
saw NIE last fall, which
I took to be authoritative on right [on record]

Deep background as admin officials
Give straight report on NIE
[UI] report said
Vigorously pursue

WHAT ARE REFERENCES TO DEEP BACKGROUND MEAN?

WHY NOT ON RECORD?

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

[DO SOFTLY] NOTE: VP TELLS HIM TO GIVE STRAIGHT REPORT ON NIE
"VIGOROUSLY PURSUE"

HAD IT BEEN DECLASSIFIED?

IF IT HAD BEEN DECLASSIFIED WHY "DEEP BACKGROUND"???

WILSON REPORT: HAD THAT BEEN DECLASSIFIED?

DID LIBBY GET BACK TO YOU ON HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH REPORTERS?

WHAT DID SCOTTER TELL YOU HE SAID TO:

COOPER

KESSLER

MILLER

MITCHELL

THOMAS

*Nothing
at specific
parallelism*

[SOMEWHERE: GET OUT THAT ISSUE DID NOT KICK UP AGAIN AFTER JULY
UNTIL SEPTEMBER INVESTIGATION]

CHENEY VIEW OF WILSON

PARTISAN

QUALIFIED

NEPOTISM

BOONDOGGLE

UNUSUAL

*Something of an approximation
Acute critic of Admin.*

*Biggest problem is w/ the Agency! Have worked
4/5 of way for many yrs... huge consensus of their product.*

CTA gets it wrong once in a while

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

*VER MEET?
No.*

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

JULY 16 FORD BIRTHDAY PARTY

*Attended 3 Organized.
Howard R. Thompson.
Current press conference of 6/14/76*

ANDREA MITCHELL

DISCUSS NOVAK COLUMN?

12

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

SEPTEMBER REPORTING/CLEARING QUESTIONS

*Learned of investigation by Judge Thompson
indication that everyone had to preserve it from
on discussing
to indication from anyone that they
get to book. Any other
center commission of investigation
McClendon's press statement*

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN INVESTIGATION BROKE?

AWARE OF ANY CONTACTS BETWEEN ROVE AND REPORTERS?

AWARE OF ANY CONTACT BETWEEN LIBBY AND REPORTERS?

WHAT DID LIBBY'S CONTACTS WITH:

ER
TCHELL
ERT
OPER
KESSLER
THOMAS

OUT ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH ANY REPORTERS WHERE
EITHER DISCUSSED WILSON'S WIFE?

U HOW HE FIRST EARNED

PRESENTATIONS TO YOU

U YOU HE WAS NOT NOVAK LEAK?

TELL YOU WHETHER HE KNEW ANYONE SPOKE TO NOVAK?

LIBBY, TELL YOU THAT HE LEARNED ABOUT WILSON'S WIFE FROM

RUSSET?

OFFER TO TELL YOU ALL?

DID YOU TELL HIM NO?

COME BACK AND OFFER TO TELL YOU ALL AGAIN?

No recollection.

b5

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

CLEARINGS

HOW COME TO PASS THAT McCLELLAN CLEARS LIBBY TOO?

DID YOU CALL CARD?

FROM WYOMING

SCOOTER CALL CARD?

ANY CONCERNS ABOUT HOW CATEGORICAL CLEARING IS?

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

MEATGRINDER DOCUMENT

"Has to happen today"

"Call out to key press saying same thing about Scooter as Karl"

"Not going to protect one staffer and sacrifice the guy [the Pres? He has?]

that was asked to stick his neck in the meatgrinder because of the
incompetence of others"

WHAT WAS MEATGRINDER SCOOTER STUCK NECK IN? [PRESS]

WHAT IS "STICK THE NECK IN THE MEATGRINDER"

WHO WAS THE INCOMPETENT? [TENET? SOTU PEOPLE? PRESS PEOPLE]

WHAT IS THE CROSSED OUT LANGUAGE

WHO GIVEN TO?

LIBBY LANGUAGE: FOCUS ON THE "CLASSIFIED" QUALIFIER

"WILSON TENET MEMO": WHO WROTE?

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

CAN WE HAVE ORIGINAL?

MAYBE:

OCTOBER 12 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE

7/12 Wash Post reports (on 10/12) that senior administration official on July 12 told Post that administration did not pay attention to trip because it was a boondoggle set up

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

by Wilson's wife, an analyst on weapons of mass destruction. Author notes that wife's name not mentioned, purpose seemed not to be to generate an article but seeking to discredit Wilson

KNOW WHO POST IS REFERRING TO?

knowing judgment of NIG. When was CIA on
DISCUSS DECLASSIFYING NIE TO GIVE TO PRESS

JUDITH MILLER

LIBBY RAISE ISSUE RE: CLASSIFICATION?

TALK TO POTUS ONCE OR TWICE?

DISCUSS CONVERSATIONS WITH ADDINGTON?

NOTE-TAKING AND DOCUMENT PRESERVATION:

HIS NOTE TAKING AND KEEPING

DO WE HAVE ALL DOCUMENTS?

AWARENESS OF INVESTIGATION

AWARE OF IDENTITIES OF OTHER PERSONS INTERVIEWED?

AWARE OF SUBSTANCE OF SUCH INTERVIEWS OR TESTIMONY?

GET WAIVER FORM SIGNED

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

b5

b5